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THE MISSOURI INVESTIGATION.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. Evidence Concerning Contracts.

GEN. FREMONT'S ADMINISTRATION

We give below a portion of the evidence recently taken by the Missouri Investigating Committee at St. Louis; only a part of it is already printed, and the report of the Committee upon the case is not yet made public:

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 16, 1861.

Giles F. Filley, being duly sworn, was examined as follows:

Examination by Mr. Washburne.—Q. State to the Committee your residence and the character of your business?

A. I reside in this city, and am engaged in the manufacture of stoves.

Q. Have you had any contract with the Government for furnishing articles of any kind for the army?

A. We are furnishing the Benton Barracks with stoves; not under regular contract, but through orders of the Quartermaster. We are also furnishing stoves for various departments—for the Hospital, and for other barracks.

Q. Are these articles furnished by you directly to the Quartermaster, or through another party?

A. Directly through the Quartermaster.

Q. How recently have you been engaged in this matter of furnishing stoves?

A. I am furnishing them now; I have furnished stoves to the hospital for the different hospitals, through the Quartermaster.

Q. Have you furnished stoves, or any other articles which have gone to the use of the Government, through contractors, or through parties who have sold them to you?

A. I have sold the plates and cups and camp-kettles and mess-pans to the men, we have orders for them.

Q. State everything connected with that matter.

A. About two months since, I think the house of Child, Pratt & Fox came to me with the proposition to furnish camp-kettles and mess-pans to the men, we have orders for them.

Q. Do you know what they charged for them directly to the Government?

A. They said, "charge them to us."

Q. Do you know what you have paid them for them?

A. I have paid them \$100 per head.

Q. Do you know what you have paid them for the plates and cups?

A. I have paid them \$100 per head.

Q. Do you know what you have paid them for the camp-kettles and mess-pans?

A. I have paid them \$100 each.

Q. Respectfully yours,

GILES F. FILLEY,

"By Bell."

Gen. J. M. McKinstry.

To that letter I received a reply, of which the following is a copy:

OFFICE A. Q. M. GENERAL, WESTERN DEPARTMENT, St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 1, 1861.

Sir: In reply to your offer to furnish camp-kettles and mess-pans, this department is not in want of any at this time.

Respectfully,

J. MCKINSTRY, A. Q. M. General.

Mr. Giles F. Filley. Sir, I do.

Since that correspondence took place I have supplied to the house of Child, Pratt & Fox 300 camp-kettles and 1,000 mess-pans, and have further orders from the same house for 3,000 more.

Q. Then I suppose it follows that this house has its contract with the Government to furnish those articles previous to your furnishing them?

A. It is true that they did not have a special contract, but they have given orders to furnish everything.

Q. Was there any special arrangement between those articles?

A. No, Sir.

Q. What was the reason, if any, you can give why they should have given orders to furnish them?

A. Well, Sir, I suppose that Mr. McKinstry, the Quartermaster, gave my appointment as much to Fox as to anybody.

Q. How many of these articles have you furnished to Child, Pratt & Fox?

A. In amount, to over \$4,000 worth.

Q. Upon these you have furnished, what is the difference in cost to the Government between what you propose to furnish and what they understand they actually paid for them?

A. Child, Pratt & Fox!

A. Taking into consideration the difference between the Missouri money which we receive and Treasury notes which the Government gives us, I would say it is about 10 per cent. in price, and I would say it is about 25 per cent. in cost.

Q. Do you know any reason, other than that you have already stated, why these articles should have been purchased of the house of Child, Pratt & Fox, instead of directly from the Quartermaster?

A. No, Sir; except that Mr. Fox has been very intimate with the Quartermaster.

Q. Has it or has it not been a net loss to the Government of that amount in price?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. State whether you were prepared to do and could have done the work which you proposed, and at the prices you quoted?

A. We have actually done it for Messrs. Child, Pratt & Fox.

Q. Do you know of any other contract which this house has made with any other party for other articles?

A. They have a similar arrangement with my brother, in respect to articles which he manufactures.

Q. What are those things?

Examination by Mr. Daniels.—Q. What is the business of James O. Daniels?

A. I reside in St. Louis, and am a practicing attorney at law.

Q. Have they any practical knowledge of the value in the market of the goods which you furnished?

A. Not as manufacturers.

Q. Is there one house in St. Louis which you furnished such articles?

A. No, Sir.

Q. Were there many such houses?

A. There were several houses which got a great many mess-pans, and what we furnished.

Q. Would your offer to the Quartermaster vary much from what those articles could have been obtained for from other sources?

A. They could have been obtained of other houses at about the same price.

Q. Was it a matter of any difficulty for the Government to ascertain the market value of those articles?

A. Not at all.

Q. Do you know of ordinary business capacity employed to purchase the army those goods, have found out without offering the lowest price they may have been purchased for?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. Would there have been any practical difficulty in the Government's getting directly with the manufacturer, and thereby obtaining the articles at the lowest price?

A. None, whatever. Of course there was a good deal of feeling about a set of Californians coming into the city and getting neutered, so to speak, in one morning, and a set of others coming to take their place, and so forth, and so forth, in price, and so forth.

A. Told him so.

Q. Do you know any reason, other than that you have already stated, why these articles should have been purchased of the house of Child, Pratt & Fox, instead of directly from the Quartermaster?

A. No, Sir; except that Mr. Fox has been very intimate with the Quartermaster.

Q. Has it or has it not been a net loss to the Government of that amount in price?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. How long after this did Fox come to you with the proposition?

A. He had just started to go to the city.

Q. How long was it after Fox made the proposition to you, before you heard that the contractor had got something to do with the river?

A. I don't know what he said to me.

Q. Do you represent to Major McKinstry for whom you were acting?

A. I told McKinstry that I was representing Peay, who had furnished the mules. He said nothing about Neil, neither did he say anything else.

Q. Do you know the name of the man who had applied to him for the iron with which to make them?

A. I don't know.

Q. Do you know the terms upon which this contract was taken?

A. As far as you can tell, the street that it was on, five cents per pound, plus difference from your own.

A. About two or three, I suppose.

Q. You think the other side to the Government, either to make them or to buy them, would be a charge in favor of the Government, of at least two cents per pound.

A. I should guess so.

Q. And you have understood that contract has been let for five cents.

A. I can't say that from my own knowledge, but that is the rumor, and it would make a difference upon the amount of \$20,000. When Mr. Fox left, he said that there were two parties waiting at his store, and he was getting paid by one of them.

Q. What was the price to the party who offered to pay you?

A. I don't know.

Q. Do you know the date to which this contract was taken?

A. As far as you can tell, the street that it was on, five cents per pound, plus difference from your own.

Q. You think the other side to the Government, either to make them or to buy them, would be a charge in favor of the Government, of at least two cents per pound.

A. I should guess so.

Q. Do you know the name of the party who had applied to him for the iron with which to make them?

A. I told him that Peay and other parties from the country had come to get their money; that they owned horses in the country from whom they bought the mules, and he wanted to pay them.

Q. Was anything said between you and the party that only \$10 out of each \$10 was going to your client?

A. No, Sir.

Q. Who was it that told you to make that offer?

A. It was Peay.

Q. Do you know the name of the man who furnished the mules?

A. I told him that Peay and other parties from the country had come to get their money; that they owned horses in the country from whom they bought the mules, and he wanted to pay them.

Q. Do you know the name of the party who did not actually furnish the mules?

A. I told him that Peay and other parties from the country had come to get their money; that they owned horses in the country from whom they bought the mules, and he wanted to pay them.

Q. Do you know the name of the man who furnished the mules?

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